

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01137 281128Z

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 /016 W

-----281129Z 113464 /10

O 281055Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2972

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1137

FOR CU/EE RICHMOND AND EUR/EE ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SCUL, OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: ZHIVKOVA VISIT

REF: A. STATE 123569 B. STATE 124478

1. FOR SUBSTANTIVE AND PROTOCOLARY PURPOSES, DEPT SHOULD NOTE
DECISION TAKEN MAY 20 AT THIRD CONGRESS OF CULTURE OF BULGARIA
THAT COMMITTEE OF ART AND CULTURE HENCEFORTH WILL BE CALLED COMMITTEE
OF CULTURE (ART BEING CONSIDERED TO BE SUBSUMED AFTER CULTURE). MME.
ZHIVKOVA'S TITLE THUS IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF CULTURE. IT IS
GENERALLY CONSIDERED THAT CHANGE REPRESENTS BROADENING OF HER RESPON-
SIBILITIES INTO VIRTUAL CONTROL OVER PRACTICALLY ALL ASPECTS OF INTEL

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LECTUAL LIFE IN BULGARIA. NEXT STEP MAY WELL BE CREATION OF MINISTRY
OF CULTURE, WHICH WILL ALSO INCLUDE EDUCATION, AND WILL BE HEADED
BY MME. ZHIVKOVA.

2. AT DINNER MAY 25, MFA OFFICIAL POINTEDLY TOLD CHARGE THAT MME
ZHIVKOVA IS NOW TO BE CONSIDERED "FIRST LADY OF BULGARIA" AND HE HOPE
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THIS POINT WAS WELL UNDERSTOOD IN WASHINGTON. (ON INTERNAL POLITICAL
SCENE, IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS THAT ENHANCEMENT OF ZHIVKOV'S POSITION BY
MAY 12 LAYING LOW OF VELCHEV CLEARLY EXTENDS TO LYUDMILLA AS WELL. IN
THIS CONNECTION,

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AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY FOR MME. LOPEZ PORTILLO, ZHIVKOVA WAS LIS
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ED FIRST, AHEAD OF A MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF STATE AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN O
F
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, ON OSTENSIBLE GROUND THAT SHE WAS READING
WELCOMING STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HER FATHER.)

3. PROGRAM. EMBASSY IS IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH DEPT ON PROGRAM PROPOSALS FOR ZHIVKOVA VISIT (REF A). WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING FOR THREE WEEKS WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR DIRECT MEETING WITH ZHIVKOVA TO MAKE FINAL PROGRAM DECISIONS. MEETING IS POSTPONED FROM DAY TO DAY.

4. CHARGE NOW HAS MEETING SCHEDULED MAY 31 AT 0800 GMT WITH SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS. AT THAT TIME, WILL NOTE APPOINTMENT WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15 AT 1530 AND WILL SUGGEST ZHIVKOVA DEPART -
URE FROM DULLES JUNE 18. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE FULLY ELABORATED PROGRAM AS PRESENTED BY DEPT TO POPOV (BY NIACT IMMEDIATE) BEFORE APPOINTMENT.

5. AT MAY 31 MEETING, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT CHARGE BE INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT US SIDE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SIGN PROGRAM DOCUMENT (REF B) UNLESS BULGARIAN SIDE AGREES TO RESTORE SUBPARAS 4 AND 5 OF ARTICLE ONE. IF DEPT AGREES, PLEASE INSTRUCT BY NIACT IMMEDIATE.
FELDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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